



Independence Park Institute

Historic Preservation

Visit several of our historic sites and experience how the National Park Service strives to protect and interpret these special places!

To help you have the most enjoyable visit possible; here are a few helpful hints:

- Get your **free** timed tickets to Independence Hall and the Todd/ White house tour. This will help you to better plan out the rest of your day. (Available in the Independence Visitor Center near where you picked up this packet.)
- Get a “Building Hours” list with this packet. Several of the sites you will visit have changing hours and are closed on some days.
- Be aware that you will have to go through a visual bag check at the entrance of the Liberty Bell and at the corner of 5th and Chestnut Streets for Independence Square. If you do not have a bag you will move quickly through the line.
- Some of the historic structures that you will visit are nearly 300 years old. Please take care to ensure that your children’s children will also be able to visit these sites and learn about how they are preserved and interpreted.

Ready? Let’s go! You’ll begin on Market Street at the entrance to the Independence Visitor Center where many 18th Century Philadelphians lived and worked. You will see markings of where their residences were labeled with their names and professions on the sidewalk.

On the way to where these everyday people once lived, begin your historical conversation by asking your group:

- What do you already know about Historic Preservation? What is it and why is it important?
- Why is Philadelphia a good place to learn about historic preservation?
- What are some important events, buildings, and objects that are protected at Independence National Historical Park? (*To name a few, the Declaration and the Constitution were debated and signed in Independence Hall, Congress Hall was the U.S. Capitol building from 1790-1800, and the Liberty Bell is protected here in the park.*)



Recognizing the important role the city of Philadelphia played throughout history, its citizens wanted to preserve where the events happened. Early preservation efforts came from its mayor, the Colonial Dames and the American Institute of Architects. Today the city still owns the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall while Independence National Historical Park maintains them. Its rangers are committed to the mission of preserving and protecting the treasures in the park, and sharing them with the people.

Stop #1: Sidewalk on Market Street at the entrance to the Independence Visitor Center

(Market Street sidewalk between 5th and 6th Streets)

As you walk along the sidewalk in front of the Independence Visitor Center, notice where homes and places of business once stood. In the 1700s many merchants had shops along High Street, now called Market. This was a very busy and important location in the city. Read the inscriptions as you walk along. On the south side of Market Street is where the home used by Presidents Washington and Adams once stood.

Think about it! Ask about it! Talk about it!

- What were some of the occupations of people who once lived and worked here? (*Papermaker, Grocer, Ropemaker, Merchant, Inn keeper*)
- What do you think happened to these homes and businesses? Why are they not here for you to see today?
- Since these homes have long since been demolished, how do we learn information about these early Philadelphia residents? (*Historians have many ways to learn about what that past was like. They use primary source documents like city directories and deeds, as well as archeology. Most of the information you are reading on the sidewalk came from tax assessment records.*)

Stop #2: The Liberty Bell

(5th Street between Market and Chestnut Streets) Walk one-half block South on 6th Street. There are **no public restrooms** available in the building.

As you walk through the Liberty Bell Center, take a look at the exhibits and the film. Listen to a ranger give a presentation about the Bell. Learn about its history and how the National Park Service cares for and protects it for future generations.

Be a History Detective! Look around you, observe, and learn!

- Why was a bell's ring important to the people of the city? (*It tolled for important meetings, fire alarms, and special occasions.*)
- How has the Liberty Bell been preserved? (*The bell cracked sometime before 1845 (the exact year is not know) and futile attempts were made to repair it. Notice the drill holes making the big "crack" in front. In 1846 it rang for the last time on Washington's Birthday. If you look under the bell today, you will see a spider brace which protects the bell from any further cracking. The actual crack is very small and starts at the top of the repair and runs all the way to the crown, or top, of the Bell.*)
- Many groups have used the Bell as a symbol because of its inscription "**Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof...**" Who are some of the groups who adopted the Liberty Bell for their symbol? Why did people begin to value the Bell as an icon and preserve it as a national treasure? (*Abolitionists, suffragettes, civil rights leaders, and many others people who seek freedom from oppression have used the Bell as their symbol.*)



The Liberty Bell was moved into the Liberty Bell Center on October 9, 2003. A special "Bellmobile" was made to transport it to its new home.

Stop #3 Independence Hall 30 minutes (not including security check)

TIMED TICKETS REQUIRED from the Independence Visitor Center

This is a ranger-led program that will include the most historically important room in the nation!

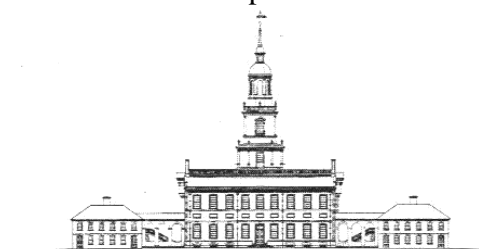
Walk left on Chestnut Street to Fifth Street. Enter at the corner of Fifth and Chestnut Streets. Please enter Independence Square 30 minutes before your Independence Hall tour. Enter the queue for the ranger-led tour outside the East Wing at the time indicated on your ticket.

After the tour with the ranger, discuss the following information.

- Construction on the State House of the Province of Pennsylvania started in 1732 and by 1735 the Assembly was meeting there. What historically significant events happened here? (*July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was adopted; September 17, 1787 the Constitution of the United States was signed*)
- When the Marquis de Lafayette visited Philadelphia in 1824, the planners of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence first called the old PA State House the “Hall of Independence”.
- Today, conservators carefully examine every inch of Independence Hall to make sure that the building stays in good condition. The picture at the right is of someone repelling from the top of the bell tower to assess the building.
- Did you know that in 1818 Independence Hall was spared from demolition? The capital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania needed money and state officials wanted to sell the property here. The city of Philadelphia bought the Square to protect the historic buildings. They are still owned by the city, and maintained by the National Park Service.
- Study and compare the four elevations and name four changes over time and four consistent features that you see. Architect William Strickland designed a new steeple for Independence Hall to recreate the old one as a very early act of historic preservation. This happened after the Marquis de Lafayette’s visit to Philadelphia in 1824 stirred a patriotic reverence for the Old State House.



A conservator carefully examines the tower of Independence Hall



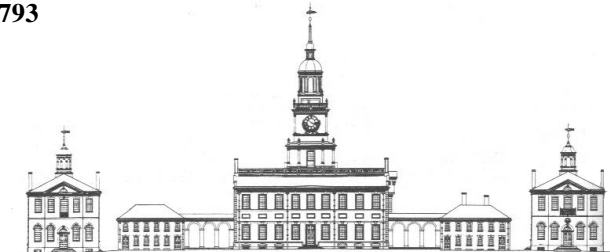
1776



1876



1793



Today – the city of Philadelphia working with the American Institute of Architects in the 1890s restored the exterior appearance to what you see today.

Stop #4 Congress Hall

(Adjacent to the West Wing) Join a ranger talk to hear more about this important building!

- Congress Hall is the oldest surviving building that was used by the Congress of the U.S. The House of Representatives met on the first floor. The Senate met on the second floor. Public galleries were built for both Houses. Originally, this building was the county courthouse, but it was loaned to the national government rent-free for ten years while the new capital, Washington DC was under construction. When was Philadelphia the nation’s capital? (1790-1800)

- Preservation efforts in the 1990s changed the House chamber to be more accurate. Originally, the desks and chairs were arranged in a semicircle. They were changed to the u-shape that you see now based on a sketch by a man named Van Cortland. He was a congressman and drew a sketch of the room as it appeared during the Jay Treaty debate in 1795. He labeled where each congressman sat on his sketch.

Have a little more time? As you head towards the Todd House walk by Carpenter's Hall and look at the brick outlines on the ground. These outlines show you where buildings used to be. What buildings used to be here? Why are the buildings no longer standing? The area that is now Independence National Historical Park used to be a very crowded part of town. What is left today is a result of the 1950s preservation idea that only buildings of national significance need to remain for visitors. Today we work to preserve much more.

Stop #5 Tour of Todd House & Bishop White House

Don't forget to get your **free** timed tickets to the **Todd and White Houses** at the **Independence Visitor Center**. Allow about an hour. (If the tours are filled or you are unable to go on the hour long tour, you can visit the other sites on your own walking tour.)

Todd House

(4th & Walnut Streets) Walk East on Chestnut Street to 4th Street. Turn right and walk one block to the side entrance before Walnut Street.



Todd House about 1950

Dolley and John Todd occupied this house from 1791-1793. John was a lawyer, who died of yellow fever in 1793. Dolley later married James Madison, who became the fourth president of the U.S.

- The picture to the left shows where Dolley Todd, later Dolley Madison, lived. Extensive research revealed the earlier interior and exterior so it could be restored. How? (*Documents, inventory, diaries, images, family history, and architects' study of historic fabric were used to help restore the building.*)
- Look at the image to the left circa 1950, before the NPS took it over. It was a Luncheonette which advertised Dolley Madison Ice Cream.

Through research, historians and curators have been able to make educated guesses as to where members of the Todd family stayed and have been able to furnish the house based on family records.

- Compare the image above to the house today. What has been done to restore the home to its original condition?

Bishop White House

(309 Walnut Street) Walk east to the last house on the left.

The Reverend Dr. William White lived in this house from 1787 to 1836. He was rector of Christ Church and St. Peter's Church, and began many civic projects to help the poor. He chose this location because it was between his two churches.



- The Bishop's study looked like to image to the left when the park service started thinking about restoring the room to its original appearance.
- When researchers wanted to furnish the Bishop's study, they recreated it from a painting done of that study shortly after the Bishop's death. The painting was done by John Sartain (the image to the right). Having such a painting is very rare and the NPS was lucky to have it as a resource. What are some other pictorial sources of information? (*engravings, paintings, and portraits*)



- What other means did historians have to furnish the interior? (*The Episcopalian minister was very prominent. High quality utensils would have been found in this kitchen, precious china in the dining room, and a large parlor furnished for entertaining guests like George Washington. Some of his descendants loaned or sold furniture that belonged to the Bishop to the park. Also, there are surviving inventories, letters, diaries, and other documents that help historians to furnish the home.*)

Stop #6 Independence Living History Center

(3rd & Chestnut Streets) Walk across 3rd Street and turn left to mid-block.

An archeology laboratory displays artifacts from past centuries in Philadelphia.



- Take a moment and talk to one of the archeologists. What are they working on? What kinds of information can they learn from analyzing what people left behind hundreds of years ago?
- Where did most of the artifacts on display come from? (*excavation at the Constitution Center site*)
- Why are the pottery, bones, metal objects important? (*Artifacts from the 18th century depict how the people lived at that time.*)
- Why do we still conduct “digs” in Independence Park? (*One reason is that we are required to by federal law. Another is that archeologists are able to analyze an early structure to determine its use. It may have been a stable, store, home, cistern, or privy pit. Most household objects were discarded in privy pits because there was irregular trash pickup. The pits can be an archeologist’s treasure trove.*)

Stop #7 Franklin Court

(314-322 Market Street) Walk North to Chestnut Street. Turn left and walk ½ block to a sign for Franklin Court.



Turn right and enter the grounds. Franklin’s house is no longer here, but by examining archaeological and architectural exhibits, you can explore his world. Look at the two ghost structures. The smaller one towards Market Street was where Benjamin Franklin Bache’s (Franklin’s grandson) printing office once stood. The larger one towards Chestnut Street was where Benjamin Franklin built his home.

- The frame of Franklin’s home has been erected so you can appreciate how large it was. It is also a substitute for reconstruction because there was not enough documentation and other primary evidence to rebuild the house accurately.
- How do we know why it was torn down? (*Deeds prove that Franklin’s grandchildren sold the land to build more houses along an alley that ran from Market to Chestnut Street.*)
- Look down in the archeology pits and read the descriptions of the rooms in Franklin’s house on the ground. Can you tell what some of his interests were by what the rooms were used for? (*Read the letter excerpts and room descriptions on the sidewalk beneath the ghost structure.*)
- The preservation of the foundation of Franklin’s house was so important that when the museum dedicated to Franklin was designed, it was put 19 ½ feet underground so as not to disturb the remnants of Franklin’s house.

Fragments of Franklin Court

(318 Market Street) Enter on the court yard side.

- See the exhibit in Fragments of Franklin Court. It will show you how preservationists analyze a building to understand its historic appearance. How do archeologists and historians know how each floor was used in Franklin’s time? (*For a clue, look at the wall that has been interpreted.*)
- This house is preserved as a shell today so that visitors like you can see how historians and curators preserve and protect historic places. At one time, all of the historic buildings in the park looked this way.

We hope you have found this historic preservation tour informative during your visit to Independence National Historical Park! Please let us know how you liked this drop-in activity packet. Was it helpful? Did it make the park's story and the park sites more meaningful? Did it make your experience more enjoyable? Please give us your feedback by going to our website at www.nps.gov/inde and visiting the Education Section. We'd love to hear from you!

If you are interested in learning even more about historic preservation, here are some suggested resources that you may enjoy.

Web Resources

<http://www.independenceparkinstitute.com> Here teachers can find Independence NHP trip planning resources as well as lesson plans on archeology, daily life and diversity in 18th century Philadelphia, and Benjamin Franklin.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/preservation.htm> Learn about some of the many ways the National Park Service helps to preserve the history and culture.

<http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/> This is where kids can become NPS rangers and learn how to protect America's special places.

http://www.nps.gov/archive/inde/Franklin_Court/Pages/archaeology.html Learn about archeology at Franklin Court. This website has information on the basics of archeology all related to Benjamin Franklin and life at Franklin Court. There is an interactive timeline, information on how to "read" an artifact, and much more!

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/inde/archeology/archeology3.htm> Learn about archeological studies that have happened in Independence National Historical Park including excavations at the site of the President's House and the James Dexter Site.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/PUBLIC/kids/kidsSix.htm> Here you will find activities, resources, and much more for encouraging a child's interest in archeology as well as encouraging stewardship for archeological heritage.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/teachers.htm> This site has resources for teachers including lesson plans, professional development opportunities, and tools to engage students in learning about history.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Sept. 2010 (v. 3)